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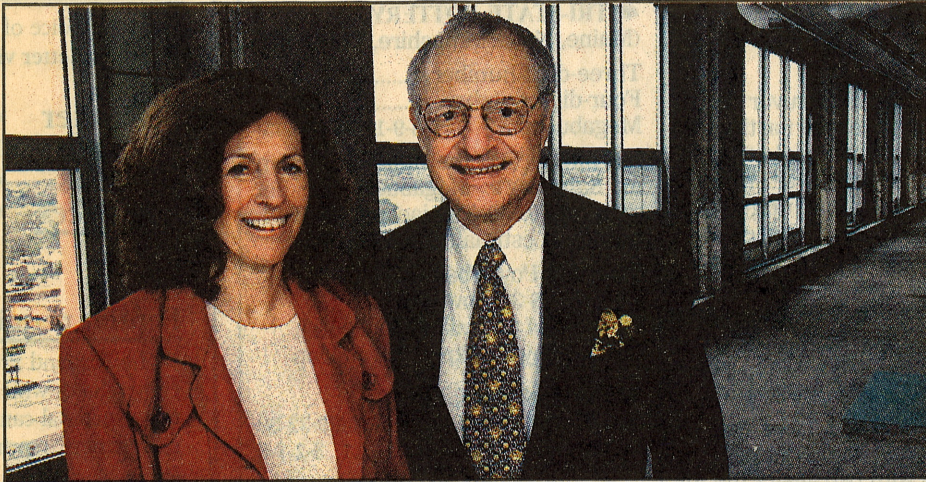
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Couple to give more than \$1 million to USM library



Judith and Albert Glickman stand in the unfinished top floor of the University of Southern Maine library in Portland. Their donation will help complete the top three floors of the seven-story building the university renovated in 1990.

Staff photo by David A. Rodgers

● Judith and Albert Glickman of Cape Elizabeth will finance completion of the Portland building and will buy new books and periodicals.

By MEREDITH GOAD
Staff Writer

A Cape Elizabeth couple is donating more than \$1 million to the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus library. Most of the money will be used to complete the top three floors of the building.

The donation from Albert B. and Judith L. Glickman is the largest ever given to USM.

"Judy and I are both products of

public education," said Albert Glickman, a commercial real estate developer and philanthropist who is a longtime contributor to education and the arts in Maine.

"There's no way that I could have gone to college if I had had to pay the tuitions that private schools were asking," he said. "So we've always had a keen interest in higher education. . . . And the heartbeat of a university is the library."

In addition to financing the renovation of the building, some of the Glickmans' donation will be used to buy new books and periodicals for the cash-strapped library.

Albert Glickman, a Portland native, is a member of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. His family's gift will be announced formally at a meeting of

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the board this afternoon.

USM bought the seven-story library building at Bedford Street and Forest Avenue in 1990 and renovated it with funds from a state bond issue. But there was only enough money to complete the exterior and first four floors.

The final three floors are nothing more than concrete shells, albeit with beautiful views. It is estimated that it will cost \$3 million to finish them, a project that will add 26,500 square feet of floor space to the 36,000 square feet already available.

"This gift is the foundation for that effort," said Richard L. Pattenau, president of USM. "This gift is a powerful statement about the importance of the library and the generosity of the people. We are blessed to have generous and thoughtful peo-

ple like the Glickmans in our community."

An internal committee at the university has recommended that most of the extra space be used for book stacks and study areas. The top floors will have room for about 300 new study areas, mostly in the form of carrels, doubling the number of seats now available in the library, according to Barbara Smith, the associate university librarian.

Some space also will be used to house special collections and new information technologies. No final decisions will be made until a study is completed this year.

Glickman said he won't know exactly how much his family's gift will be for another month or so, but it will definitely be more than \$1 million. The first \$1 million of the gift will be put toward the completion of the top three floors.

"Anything in excess of that, the Glickmans have insisted — and very wisely so — that it be used to

enhance the collection, to buy those critically needed books," Pattenau said. "The faculty are thrilled."

The USM library's collection contains a total of more than 1.5 million items. But with the cost of library materials rising rapidly, the library has been forced to cut back on the number of new books and periodicals it buys.

In 1993, the library purchased 4,976 new book titles, Smith said. Last year, only 2,339 new titles were put on the shelves.

Over the past decade, the library also has had to decrease the number of its subscriptions to periodicals.

The Glickmans say they hope their contribution will prompt others to give generously to the library.

"We're kind of hoping that this will stimulate other people in the community in many ways, not only in donations but there's space here for collections," said Judith Glickman,

who is an internationally known photographer.

"There's got to be a lot of people out there who have some wonderful treasures that they would like to share with the future of Maine, our university students."

Along with the new floors, the library also will get a new name: the Albert Brenner Glickman Family Library. It will be dedicated in a public ceremony this fall, Pattenau said.

"Even though we really would like to give the gift anonymously," Glickman said, "we find that if you do give a name, it has a much greater impact in getting other funds. . . . In the profession of fund-raising, a lead gift really goes a long way."

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